

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Materion Allanol a Deddfwriaeth
Ychwanegol
Ymadael â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd:
Paratoadau Nghymru ar gyfer diwedd y
cyfnod pontio
EAAL(5) EUP20
Ymateb gan Cyngor Celfyddau Cymru /
Celfyddau Rhyngwladol Cymru

Welsh Parliament
External Affairs and Additional Legislation
Committee
Exiting the European Union: Preparedness in
Wales for the end of the transition period

Evidence from Arts Council Wales / Wales Arts
International

Exiting the European Union: Preparedness in Wales for the end of the transition period

Response to the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee inquiry from Arts Council of Wales / Wales Arts International – supplementary information

October 2020

1. In July 2020 we submitted a briefing note to the Senedd's External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee and the Culture, Welsh Language and Communication Committee setting out the main areas of concern and potential impact of Brexit on the arts in Wales. This paper is to provide additional information to that briefing note and to update on the current situation in October 2020.
2. In July we reported on the "double whammy" that the arts in Wales are facing because of the negative impact and uncertainty being caused by Covid-19 and Brexit. This remains the same with continued Covid restrictions and without any UK-EU deal (correct at time of writing). The arts sector in Wales is preparing for the end of the transition period alongside preparation to re-open and operate under Covid adapted guidelines.
3. At this stage it is likely there will be a funding gap at the end of the transition period before any domestic alternative funding programmes start up. In July 2020 we jointly organised a roundtable stakeholder event with Creative Scotland and DCMS, to consult with the arts sector on a proposed UK replacement programme for Creative Europe. We await to hear what the result of the now one-year Spending Review will be on these proposals – whilst maintaining our strong advocacy of the benefits of continued participation in the Creative Europe programme.
4. We also responded in the summer to consultations on proposals for the Shared Prosperity Fund and await further news on this, as many arts organisations have benefitted greatly from EU structural funds to date. There are concerns over the impact of the Internal Market Bill and the merger of the Department of International Foreign Aid and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on devolved areas such as culture and soft power.
5. DCMS has run a number of stakeholder briefings in the past couple of weeks, to which Wales Arts International and several key arts companies from Wales were invited, with updates on expected changes to freedom of movement of goods and of people from January 2021.

6. The main concerns of the arts sector in terms of movement of people and goods, are both outgoing to the EU as well as incoming to the UK. In the event of a no deal, there will be additional visa costs; work permits required; social security costs; and licenses and carnets for moving goods.
7. Whilst some of these concerns may be resolved in the event of a UK-EU deal being agreed, arts organisations are having to carefully scenario plan and cost out a number of options if they are considering touring to any countries in the EU post January 2021, or if they are holding events in the UK which involve EU artists or companies. (This is in addition to having to make contingency plans to adapt to changing Covid guidance).
8. Lack of information, and how to apply the changes that will take place from January 2021 has been a challenge to the arts sector, but there have recently been more information sessions and briefings from arts sector bodies, as well as the recent DCMS briefings.
9. Wales Arts International/Arts Council of Wales, alongside our sister agencies Creative Scotland and Arts Council England have committed to developing an Infopoint – an initiative set up to provide a practical source of information on incoming artist mobility to the UK from EU/International on practical and legal issues such as visa, tax, social security etc. It will also signpost to other resources/sources of information, including where there is information on outgoing artist mobility from UK to EU/international. This is a pilot project which will run from January – December 2021.